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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE
Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee
Twenty-seventh session
Working Group of the Whole

# PROPOSAL OF THE GROUP OF 77 TO THE WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE TO EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

1. The Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82), re-established for its fourth session by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 44/46 of 8 December 1989, with a view to improving the execution of activities relating to international co-operation, particularly those included in the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, and to propose concrete steps to increase such co-operation as well as to make it more efficient, held a series of meetings at United Nations Headquarters between 27 February and __ March 1989.

2. Mr. Raimundo González (Chile) was elected Chairman of the Working Group. The Chairman, in his opening statement, examined the mandate of the Working Group at its fourth session and the status of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

3. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it the studies and reports prepared by the Secretariat and international organizations as requested by the Working Group at its third session and endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 11 of resolution 44/46.

4. Since many of the recommendations contained in the report of UNISPACE 82 have still not been fully implemented, the Working Group proposed that the following should be undertaken bearing in mind the priorities contained in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 44/46:

(a) The emphasis of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should remain on long-term, project-oriented on-the-job training in space technology itself as well as its specific application areas, in particular, new developments in satellite systems, software for remote sensing and use of digital processing systems and training for management of ground stations. The Working Group noted with appreciation the offers made by some Member States and international organizations in this regard and urged other Member States and international organizations to make similar contributions so that the number of fellowships offered for the Programme year 1990 and subsequent years could be increased. The Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat should continue to make all efforts to arrange the increase in the number of fellowships offered and to encourage full utilization of the fellowships. In order to facilitate the development by the developing countries of their indigenous research and development capabilities, the number of trainees from each country should be sufficient so as to create a core group of experts in the country.

(b) Regarding the United Nations workshops/training courses/seminars/meetings of experts, the Working Group noted with appreciation that several activities had been proposed for the years 1990 and 1991 in the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/446). The Working Group recommended that these activities should be implemented.

(c) In the light of the continued development and evolution of space activities, the Committee should request all States, particularly those with major space or space-related capabilities, to inform the Secretary-General annually concerning those space activities that are or could be the subject of greater international co-operation, in order to permit a better assessment of the present and future of such international co-operation by the Working Group at its next session.

(d) Similarly, the Committee should also request international organizations with space-related activities to inform the Secretary-General annually concerning those space activities that are or could be the subject of greater international co-operation, with particular emphasis to the needs of the developing countries, in order to permit a better assessment of the present and future of such international co-operation by the Working Group at its next session.

(e) In order to promote better access to and experiences in higher education of space-related subjects, the United Nations should, upon request, arrange for the provision of consultancy of experts from the developed and developing countries in the preparation of an integrated national plan of action for initiating, strengthening or reorienting an appropriate programme which should be in conformity with other programmes of national development. The Outer Space Affairs Division should compile a list of experts in space technology and applications to facilitate the exchange of consultants at the international level. This list should be updated periodically and circulated among the Member States for their information.

(f) In formulating co-operative programmes and projects, intensive participation of international and regional financial and development institutions should be encouraged by the United Nations. In this connection, the Secretariat should prepare annually a report on the arrangements it has made with other organs, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system in order to utilize fully the available resources and to secure additional financial support from other sources for continued implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

(g) Extensive co-operation should be encouraged among countries within a region through sharing their human resources, technical expertise, hardware and software for the space-related projects. If a country or countries within a region find it beyond their resources to undertake a programme by themselves, the United Nations should, upon request, endeavour to co-ordinate with them towards establishing a regional programme addressing the needs of those countries.

(h) In order to promote and co-ordinate the exchange of information on results of scientific discoveries, greater interaction should be encouraged among application specialists and experimental and theoretical scientists with a view to promoting wider application of the results of scientific research.

(i) Encouragement should be given to non-governmental organizations which, by means of conferences, publications and other activities including the holding of symposia and meetings devoted to special topics, could help to integrate regional and interregional efforts in order to facilitate and co-ordinate the space activities of scientific organizations. The United Nations should strengthen its co-operation with them, as part of its commitment to assisting developing countries attain the benefits of space technology. Efforts should also be made by the United Nations to seek the co-operation of other international and regional bodies specialized in space activities.

(j) On the basis of the information provided by the States, the Division should prepare on a regular basis an updated report on the resources and technological capabilities of the States in the fields of space activities, including education, training, research and fellowship opportunities, for the promotion of co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

(k) Countries with relevant capabilities are once again encouraged to provide to the developing countries financial and technical assistance for developing low-cost community receivers for communication satellites and low-cost, preferably renewable, power sources to operate the systems in unelectrified locations.

(l) Given the investments already made on the ground by many countries in the form of ground stations, processing equipment, data banks, software, etc., for remote-sensing data reception/analyses, satellite operating States are urged to ensure the availability of data on a continued basis and in a form compatible with the current systems.

(m) The Working Group requested the Outer Space Affairs Division to convene a meeting of governmental experts representing developed and developing countries to examine in detail the most cost-effective and efficient ways for the implementation of this recommendation.

(n) Taking into account paragraph 9 (c) of General Assembly resolution 44/46, the United Nations should lead, with the active support of its specialized agencies and other international organizations, an international effort to establish regional centres for space science and technology education in existing national/regional educational institutions in the developing countries.

5. The Working Group took note, with appreciation, of the report contained in document A/AC.105/451 and requests the Secretariat to update its report for the information of the subsequent sessions of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Noting that some of the space application studies recommended by UNISPACE 82 are incomplete and some of them are limited in scope, the Working Group proposes that:

(a) In the case of priority areas, information from different reports should be integrated and new information should be compiled in order to provide Member States with comprehensive studies.

(b) Based upon (a) above, a few specific studies be carried out to demonstrate the potentials of use of space technology, which may include inter alia, the following:

- Integrated land and water resources management for rural development;
- Remote and rural area communications and broadcasting;
- Forest resources management;
- Flood monitoring and control;
- Desertification;
- Ocean resources development;
- Upper atmosphere studies for weather and environment monitoring.

(c) Some of the above specific studies could also become part of the United Nations efforts on International Space Year.

6. In order to permit a complete assessment of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, the Working Group recommended that the following reports be prepared:

(a) A report dealing with the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 addressed to specialized agencies and other international organizations, as listed in annexes I and II of document A/AC.105/451, on the basis of information provided by those agencies and organizations.



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(b) A report dealing with the implementation of all the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 addressed to Member States, on the basis of information provided by them.

7. Recalling General Assembly resolution A/41/65, endorsing the Principles on Remote Sensing of Earth from Space, the Working Group of the Whole recommends that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should take up at its twenty-eighth session the assessment of the implementation of these principles, while considering the agenda item concerning Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites.

8. The Working Group recommended that it should be reconvened next year to continue its work.

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